

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 23, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-52)

TO: John Baugher - KEWN
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Protect and Enhance John Day Anadromous Fish Habitat

Project No: 1985-021-02

Work Order No: 82710

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):

1.3 Restoration of channelized river and stream reaches, 1.8 Bank protection, 1.9 Structural bank protection using bio engineering techniques, 1.16 Rearing habitat enhancement, 2.1 Maintain Healthy riparian plant communities, 2.2 Plant/protect conifers in riparian areas as thermal cover, 2.4 Provide filter strips to catch sediment and other pollutants, 2.7 Avoid exotic species, 2.14 Enhance large woody debris recruitment, 2.15 Acquisition of sensitive riparian resources, 3.1 Plant/protect vegetative/conservation cover, 3.7 Critical area planting, 4.24 Protect springs, 5.11 Hardened fords for livestock crossing streams, 5.12 Seasonal use of fords and surface waters, 5.13 Alternative water sources, 6.1 Deferred grazing, 6.5 Water supply pipeline, 6.6 Water policy: Ponds, 6.7 Water supply: troughs, 6.8 Water policy: Well, 6.9 Water supply: Spring development, 6.10 Access: Fencing, 6.11 Access: Trails/Fords at stream crossings, 6.14 Vegetation Stabilization: Critical area planting.

Location: John Day, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Description of the Proposed Action:

Activities

This action proposes to rehabilitate and improve anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat on private land within the John Day river basin. Activities to include: fencing to protect vegetation from livestock; floodplain restoration; instream structures (logs, boulders, etc.) to remedy deficiencies in habitat diversity; vegetative planting, where needed; development of off-site water sources to encourage livestock utilization of pastures away from riparian areas; and mechanically remove mine tailings away from an existing channel on Granite Creek, creating a better functioning floodplain.

Operations and Maintenance

Operations and Maintenance would begin on all project areas no later than the year immediately following completion of on-site implementation activities on each project. Predominant maintenance activities would include but not be limited to, maintenance of riparian fences, maintenance of off-site water developments, maintenance and/or retrofitting of instream structures, and revegetating key riparian areas. Maintenance activities are the responsibility of ODFW.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To monitor the progress of this program ODFW personnel would evaluate the physical condition of streams and riparian habitat prior to and upon completion of on-site implementation in each project area. Additional monitoring and evaluation would include: documentation of riparian recovery; stream temperature; stream cross-sectional transects established and monitored; yearly chinook and steelhead spawning counts; measurement of riparian vegetation recovery rates and fish populations; post-treatment measurements; and in-depth analysis and publishing of results.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Jeff A. Neal of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

All fence construction sites would be surveyed for cultural resources by a licensed Archeologist prior to ground disturbance. If cultural resources are identified, the fence location would be moved. A cultural resources survey has been completed in the area with the mine tailings that would be moved. If resources are found when the tailings are being removed, work would stop and an Archeologist would be consulted. Therefore, there will be no impacts to cultural resources as a result of this project.

Mid-Columbia steelhead and Bull Trout habitat occur within all project sites. Project designs would improve habitat for these species without adverse effects by obeying instream work windows and allowing natural recovery of riparian vegetation. No project construction activities would occur within the buffer zones of Canada Lynx habitat. No project construction activities would occur within the buffer zones of Bald Eagle nesting sites. Informal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act has been completed and concurrence letters have been received from NMFS and USFWS.

The potential for mercury contamination of streams as a result of moving the existing mine tailings was examined. The Granite Creek site was examined by a BPA Environmental Scientist who is of the opinion that because only the upper portions of the tailings are proposed to be redistributed, that mercury contamination, if present, in the lower section of the tailings, will not be directly disturbed, therefore, no increase in loading or bioavailability will occur. (See attached memorandum of May 16, 2001). An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in 1999 by the US Forest Service.

Extensive public involvement has taken place for this project, as documented in the checklist.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Colleen Spiering
Colleen Spiering
Environmental Project Lead

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 5/31/2001
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
Memorandum of May 16, 2001

cc: (w/attachment)
Jeff Neal – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
PO Box 515
John Day, OR 97845

bcc: (w/attachment)
K. Nakata - DOE/EH-42
L. Croff - KEC-4
E. Powers - KEC-4
W. Weintraub - KEC-4
J. Baugher - KEWL-4
P. Key - LC-7 (w/o attachment)
Official File - KEC (EQ-14)